

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CU-04
MCT-01 SY-05 FBOE-00 /079 W
-----162141Z 068710 /67

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2826
AMCONSUL MILAN
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UNCLAS ROME 2589

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PCI INITIATIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME

REF: ROME 2343

/SUMMARY/: THE PCI, RELYING ON ITS SUPERIOR ORGANIZATION, IS STEADILY STRENGTHENING ITS LEADERSHIP POSITION AT THE OCCUPIED UNIVERSITY OF ROME. THE STUDENT OCCUPATION FORCE HAS BEGUN TO DISINTEGRATE, TO BECOME DISINTERESTED OR SIMPLY EXHAUSTED, CREATING A VACUUM INTO WHICH THE PCI IS LITERALLY MARCHING. /END SUMMARY/.

1. THE COMMUNIST MARCH BEGAN FEB. 15 WHEN A SMALL GROUP OF "MILITANT" COMMUNISTS APPROACHED THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND PERSUADED THE STUDENT PICKET LINE TO DISBAND. THE GROUP THEN DISTRIBUTED FLYERS CONVENING AN ASSEMBLY AT THE LAW SCHOOL. AN HOUR LATER SOME THREE HUNDRED YOUNG PEOPLE, STUDENTS, AND WORKERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY UNIONS HELD AN ASSEMBLY TO URGE CLASSES BEGIN AGAIN UNDER "OPEN OCCUPATION" OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND TO CONDEMN SEVERAL ACTS OF VANDALISM WHICH HAVE OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE OCCUPATION.

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2. A MASS DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE UNIVERSITY IS SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 17. LUCIANO LAMA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CGIL, WILL BE THE FEATURED SPEAKER. LAMA IS EXPECTED TO EXPLAIN THE POSITION OF THE CGIL TOWARDS THE PROTEST AGAINST THE MALFATTI REFORM AND TO UNDERLINE THE FACT THAT THOSE WHO WISH TO CHANGE THE UNIVERSITY CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT THE PCI. PIC INTENT SEEMS TO BE TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP OF THE

OCCUPATION THROUGH ITS SUPERIOR ORGANIZATION FOR LONG-RUN BATTLES. ALTHOUGH THE OTHER PARTIES AND UNIONS ARE ALSO LOOKING CAUTIOUSLY FOR AN ENTRANCE INTO THE STUDENT MOVEMENT, THE IMPETUS SEEMS CLEARLY BEHIND THE PCI INITIATIVES, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT.

3. THE PCI ACTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITHOUT GREAT ANTHUSIASM OR CRITICISM AMONG THE STUDENTS OF THE OCCUPATION FORCE. ONE LOTTA CONTINUA STUDENT COMMENTED IRONICALLY: "WE EXPECTED COSSIGA'S TROOPS AND INSTEAD WE HAVE COSSUTA'S," REFERRING RESPECTIVELY TO THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND THE MEMBER OF THE PCI DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBLE FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. OTHERS HAVE SUGGESTED THEY WERE WRONG TO HAVE CONSIDERED THE PCI AS AN ENEMY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE OCCUPATION, AND TO HAVE THUS BEEN ISOLATED WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY. FOR THE MOST PART, THE OCCUPATION FORCE IS TIRING; INTERNAL DIFFERENCES ARE COMING TO THE SURFACE, AND THE LACK OF AN OVERALL STRATEGY IS SLOWLY SAPPING THE ENERGIES OF THE MOVEMENT.

4. THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME, REFERRING OPENLY FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE POSSIBILITY OF POLICE INTERVENTION, STATED FEB. 15 THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO PREVENT IT, BUT THAT CONTINUED ACTS OF VANDALISM JEOPARDIZE THE SITUATION. MANY STUDENTS CLAIM THAT THE VANDALISM IS THE WORK OF OUTSIDERS OR OTHERS INTERESTED IN PROVOKING POLICE INTERVENTION AND DISCREDITING THE STUDENT MOVEMENT. BEAUDRY

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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